## BIOTERRORISMPREPAREDNESS & CORECAPACITY

"THENEWJERSEYPERSPECTIVE - CHALLENGES&OPPORTUNITIES"

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## STATE OF THE NATION'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

- ◆ 1988LandmarkReportfromtheInstituteofMedicine: fragmented&inastateofdisarray
- ◆ LessonslearnedfromtheTopOffExercise: fragilityofthepublichealthinfrastructure

Notwithstandingthesewidelyembracedassessments, publichealthhasEXCELLEDinspiteofthesystem - notbecauseofit

# PUBLIC HEALTH IS NOW IN A "REBUILDING" PHASE A RENAISSANCE

Presentsgreatopportunities - butnotwithoutchallenges

#### **New Jersey - The Garden State**

- **♦** Population 8,414,350
- MostdenselypopulatedstateintheUnion (1,134/ sq.mile)
- SituatedinthemidstoftheNECorridor moreroadwaypersquaremile
- ◆ EWR busiestairportin tristate area -292,000domestic&55,000international flights/year(31milliontravelers)

#### **New Jersey - The Garden State**

- Majorshippingyards&portsofentry -5000vessels/year
- Highlyindustrialized 90ofthenation's 100largestcompanies
- ◆ Threenucleargeneratingstations
- Performingarts&sportsvenues
- Activemilitarybases

## New Jersey's Local Public Health Structure

- ◆ 566municipalitiesin21Countiesservedby
  - 500+LocalBoardsofHealth
  - 115Localhealthagencies

**County(12%)** 

Regional(6%)

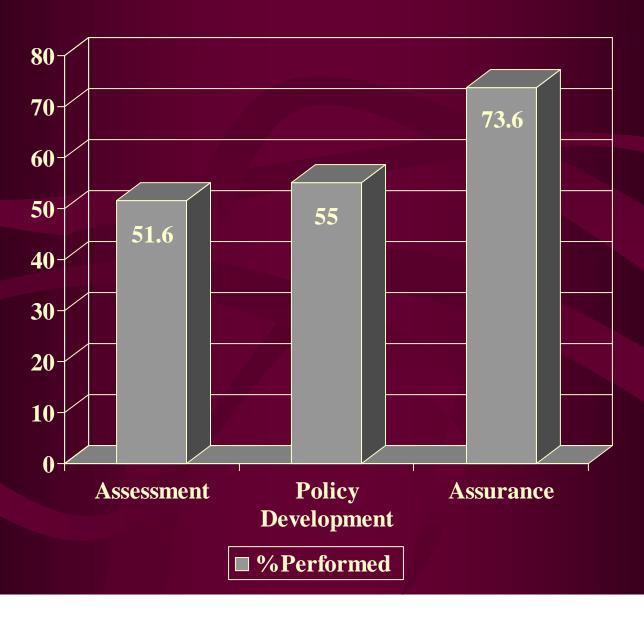
Municipal/City(82%)

## New Jersey's Local Public Health Structure

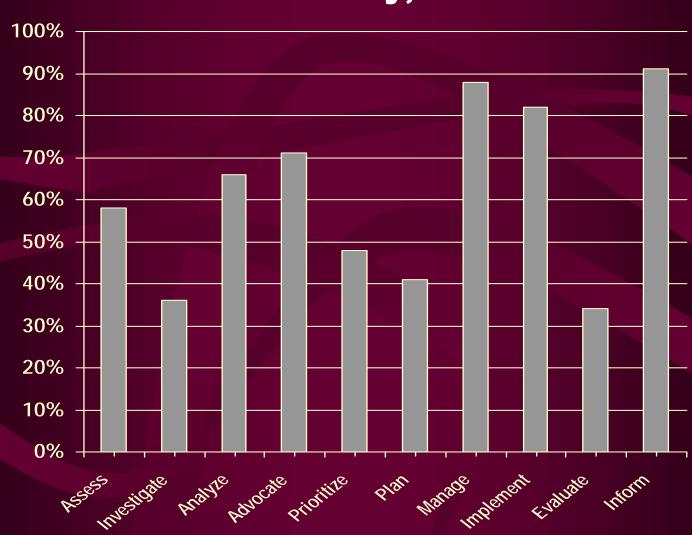
- ◆ Countyhealthdepartmentsserve 40%ofstate'spopulation
- ◆ 27%of LHAs servepopulations lessthan25,000
- ◆ 57%manageoperatingbudgets lessthan\$500,000

Assessment of Local Health
Capacity and Performance in
New Jersey - 1998

#### Core Function Performance New Jersey - July-Sept. 1998



#### Organizational Practices Performance Local Health Departments New Jersey, 1998



#### Capacity Building & Infrastructure Improvement Initiatives

- **♦ NJLINCS HAN**
- CommunicableDiseaseReportingSystem
- ◆ LaboratoryServices&Facilities
- ♦ WorkforceDevelopment
- ◆ PracticeStandards

## NJ Local Information Network & Communications System (NJ LINCS)

- Electronic publiche althinformation system
- Networkof24strategicallypositioned LHAs withfullLHAandcommunity partnerparticipation

## NJ Local Information Network & Communications System (NJ LINCS)

◆ Supportstheconceptof regionalized and coordinatedpublichealth assessment, diseaseandhazardouscondition identificationandrapidresponse andcontainment

## Examples of Building Capacity through LINCS

- ◆ ChildhoodImmunizationRegistry
- ♦ HealthAlertNetwork
- ◆ "E.PublicHealth "Initiative
- DiseaseSurveillance(WestNileVirus &influenza -likeillness)
- ◆ Area-wideTobaccoControl Progams

#### **Communicable Disease Reporting System**

#### **CurrentSystem:**

- paper-basedreporting
- multiplestandalonedatabases
- datacollectionmodel vs.an informationmanagementmodel
- inefficientwithminimumsecurity

#### **Communicable Disease Reporting System**

#### **TheNewSystem:**

- integrated, singleportal web -based system
- multiplesecurityparameters
- toprovidereal -timeaccessto data \ information

#### **Communicable Disease Reporting System**

#### Status:

- UsersRequirementsStudy completedJanuary'01
- SoftwareRequirementsSpecifications indevelopment
- TargetDateforpiloting:January,2002

#### Public Health Laboratory Services & Facilities

#### **Currentfacility:**

- Overcrowded&deteriorated
- Concernoversafety&testingintegrity
- III-suitedforitsfunction&cannotbe economicallyrenovated

### Public Health Laboratory Services & Facilities

#### CapitalPlan:

- 1) Renovationof1,500 sq.ft.(\$350,000) Biocontainment Suite(BSL -2Plus)
- 2) CompletionofaProgram,Feasibility StudyandBusinessPlanforaNew LaboratoryComplex
  - 248,000 sq.ft.,atacostof\$112 \$126million
  - Commitmenttomoveaheadwithsiting, landacquisition, and harddesign

### Public Health Laboratory Services & Facilities

Expandingtestingcapabilitiesfor

Bioterrorism agents, WestNilevirus

andnewbornscreening

#### **Workforce Development**

- ◆ 1998SurveyReported2,240 FTEs in LHAs (PublicHealthNurses:20%, REHS \ Sanitarians:15%)
- HRSAPublicHealthWorkforceEnumeration Report2000foundNJinlowerthirdof statesinratioofpublichealthworkers topopulation
- ◆ TheWorkforceisaging

#### **Initiatives**

- Credentialing and continuing education requirements
- Promotedistancelearningopportunities
- PartnershipwiththenewSchoolof PublicHealth
- ◆ Embraceworkforcecompetencies in"HealthyNJ2010"

#### **Practice Standards**

From...

Aprocessoriented, "command&control" setofminimumstandardsofperformance forlocalboardsofhealth

#### **Practice Standards**

To...

Amodern, systems based set of practice standards modeled after the National Public Health Performance Standards Program

#### **Practice Standards**

#### **Features**

- Embracesthe10essentialpublichealthservices
- Developedincollaboration&partnership...
- Buildsonthestrengthsof LHAs tocreate county-widesystemsforHealthProfiling, AssessmentandImprovementPlanning &specializedregionalexpertise&capacity

Thankyoufortheopportunitytoshare withyouNewJersey'sperspectiveon corecapacitiesforpreparedness andresponseto Bioterrorism andotherpublichealththreats.